entitled to 12% free power. The Government of H.P. is however, claiming 12% free power from September, 1982. This claim has not been found tenable.

The Government of H.P. have also requested for waiver of surcharge on the ground that there was a dispute regarding the dues payable. This issue is under consideration.

Exploitation of Hydel Potentials in Himachal Pradesh

2420. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the need for exploitation of Hydel power potentials in Himachal Pradesh, the State Government has requested the Union Government to provide additional funds under Generation Head, for on-going projects amounting to Rs. 75 crores during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the requests made in June, 1997 furnished ample justification for additional demand, as referred to in part (a) above;

(d) whether Government propose to decide these demands to enable State Government to accelerate construction work in Larji and Ghanvi Hydel projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) to (e) Government of Himachal Pradesh had requested for additional assistance of Rs. 50 crores for Larji Hydro-electric Project and Rs. 25 crores for Ghanvi Hydroelectric Project during annual plan 1997-98. This request was not supported by Planning Commission due to the fact that necessary provision had not been made in the Annual Plan 1997-98. However, for the Ninth Plan period (1997—2002) the Working Group has recommended Rs. 200 crores and Rs. 28 crores for Larji and Ghanvi projects respectively. The benefits from Ghanvi HEP has been considered during the Ninth Plan in the total target of 40245 MW whereas the benefits from Larji HEP has not been included.

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 61.5 crores for the execution of Ghanvi Hydro-electric Project. PFC has also received the proposal of Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board for funding Larji Hydro project.

New Energy Policy

2421. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated New Energy Policy; if so, the details thereof, including the cardinal features of the said policy;

(b) whether views of various State Governments were elicited before drawing up the aforesaid policy; if so, the what extent their view-points were accommodated therein; and

(c) whether the new policy integrates the both conventional and non-conventional energy sources within its fold?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir. Formulation of a new energy policy is under the consideration of the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

NTPC World Bank Conflict over Rehabilitation Programmes

2422. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation has resolved its conflict with the World Bank over the rehabilitation and resettlement programmes, at its coal-based power projects; and

(b) if so, what were the issues of conflict and how they have been resolved?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) had formulated Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Policy in Consultation with the World Bank in 1993. During the implementation of the R&R policy in Singrauli region, a number of representations were made by NGOs. The World Bank, after the visit of one-man study mission, also expressed its concern against the efficacy of the R&R package. The issues of conflict were mainly in regard to the standards of rehabilitation of Stage-I and Stage-II Project Affected Persons. In order to tackle the problems, the World Bank and NTPC agreed in September, 1997, to an action Programme which inter-alia included conducting a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Study of NTPC projects in Singrauli region, constituting an Independent Monitoring Panel (IMP) and revising R&R programmes as recommended by them. The IMP constituted in Novemebr, 1997 submitted its final recommendations in December, 1998.

After a series of meetings with the World Bank, IMP, NTPC and the Government, the issues of conflict have been resolved and accordingly NTPC has finalised a revised R&R package for Singrauli region. It has been approved by the World Bank and is currently under implementation.

Performance of SEBs

2423. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of the State Electricity Boards and the Central Utilities for 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof, standard indicators vis-a-vis position of performance for the previous two years;

(c) the details of emerging trends;

(d) the details of comprehensive action plan of restructuring/reforms finalised for revival of sagging performance of PSUs; and

(e) what is the present status of the reforms under implementation/proposed for 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The performance of all SEBs taken together for the year 1995-96 (17 SEBs) and 1996-97 (16 SEBs-excluding OSEB) has been reviewed and the same is given in the Annexure [See Appendix 186, Annexure No. 40]. It would be seen therefrom that the surplus or deficit of SEBs with subsidy for 1995-96 was Rs. 1237.53 crores and in 1996-97, the same was Rs. 833.03 crores whereas the corresponding rate of return was 2.59% and 1.79%. Surplus of deficit of SEBs without subsidy for year 1995-96 was Rs. (-) 6748.68 crores and in 1996-97 the same was Rs. (-) 6835.46 crores whereas the corresponding rate of return was (-)14.12% and (-) 14.66%.

The performance of the Central Utilities for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in Annexure [See Appendix 186, Annexure No. 40]. It would be seen therefrom that most of the CPSUs under the administrative control of Ministry of Power are profit making organisations.

(d) In the Chief Ministers'/Power Ministers' Conference held on 18th December, 1998 a plan of action viz. 'Power Reforms Initiative' was adopted for implementation. This includes the following steps by each State/Union Territory:

— to set up State Electricity Regulatory Commissions before 31st March, 1999.

— to draw up a reform bill.

— to take steps to corporatise and commercialise generation, transmission and distribution companies.

— to initiate reforms in distribution sector.

— to take steps to facilitate setting up of mega projects.

— to adopt commercial arrangements such as opening up of Letter of Credits for payment of power from generation and transmission agencies and for prompt settlement of dues.

— to take steps to facilitate orderly securitisation of debts of central PSUs.

— to take steps to complete languishing hydel projects and execution of hydro electric projects by resolving the inter State issues.